

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. share of global semiconductor production has dropped from 37 percent in 1990 to 12 percent today, and it is projected to decline even further without a comprehensive U.S. strategy to support the industry.

This bill is a small step in the right direction, but we must do more to ensure these vital supply chains for semiconductors. If we fail, the impacts to our economy and national security will be monumental.

We are in a conflict of democracy with rule by law opposed by authoritarians of rule by gun.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

H.R. 7372 is important legislation that will take practical steps to solve supply chain problems that would affect all Americans in a bipartisan way.

This is exactly the type of work we were elected to do. I applaud the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MEIJER) for their work on the Protecting Semiconductor Supply Chain Materials from Authoritarians Act.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7372.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

UKRAINE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 496) to oppose violations of religious freedom in Ukraine by Russia and armed groups commanded by Russia, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 496

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act".

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to never recognize the illegal, attempted annexation of Crimea by the Government of the Russia or the separation through the use of military force or recognition of independence of any portion of Ukrainian territory; and

(2) to consider any alien who, while serving as an official of the Government of Russia, was responsible for or directly carried out particularly severe violations of religious freedom in the sovereign territory of Ukraine that Russia illegally occupies, controls, or recognizes as independent, including through non-state armed groups and illegal entities it commands or otherwise supports or which act on Russia's behalf, to have committed particularly severe violations of religious freedom for purposes of applying section 212(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(G)) with respect to any such alien.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF RUSSIA AS A COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

For purposes of making a determination of whether to designate Russia as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under section 402 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442), the President shall consider any particularly severe violation of religious freedom in the territory of Ukraine that Russia illegally occupies, controls, or recognizes as independent, including through non-state armed groups and illegal entities it commands or otherwise supports or which act on Russia's behalf, during the period of time that is the basis for the determination and designation, to be a particularly severe violation of religious freedom that the Government of Russia has engaged in or tolerated.

[SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 496, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 496, the Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act, and thank my committee colleague and friend, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), for introducing it.

As we speak here in this Chamber, Russian forces are ravaging Ukrainian cities and towns. They are committing unspeakable atrocities and war crimes

against innocent civilians and continuing to wage an unprovoked and unjustified war. The world cannot and will not overlook or forget Russia's heinous acts of aggression, nor the war crimes and other human rights violations it is committing.

But, sadly, Russia's human rights violations against Ukrainian civilians and on sovereign Ukrainian territory started well before February of this year. Ever since Russia illegally attempted to annex Crimea and backed the separatists in the Donbas region, Russia and Russian-backed forces, as well as the so-called authorities in those regions, have demonstrated a complete disregard for human rights, including the rights of Ukrainians and others to practice their religions freely.

That is why H.R. 496 is so critically important. We must hold accountable those Russians and Russian-backed individuals responsible for committing severe violations of religious freedom on Ukrainian sovereign territory. Not only must we ensure that it is held accountable for the daily human rights violations that characterize its illegal war in Ukraine, but also for those committed long before this latest invasion.

Given that the U.S. may take actions, including by withdrawing development assistance, against countries who defy religious freedoms protected under U.S. Federal law, H.R. 496 directs the President to include Russia-controlled areas and groups when determining concern for religious freedoms and funding eligibility for Russia.

Mr. Speaker, I support this important legislation and thank the gentleman from South Carolina once again for introducing it. I urge all Members to vote in support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,

Washington, DC, April 20, 2022.

Hon. GREGORY MEEKS,

Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MEEKS: This letter is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 496, the "Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act," that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on H.R. 496, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,

Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, April 21, 2022.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 496, Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act, as amended. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 496 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I also acknowledge that your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward, and will support the appointment of Committee on the Judiciary conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

GREGORY W. MEEKS,
Chairman.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill that I am grateful to have introduced with the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER), my longtime friend and codel colleague, the Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act.

It is important that we first acknowledge the heinous escalation by the war criminal Putin, as he continues to wage a one-sided, full-scale war in sovereign, democratic Ukraine. Putin's war in Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea have dragged on for 8 years. The human toll is staggering.

Prior to the full-scale invasion, fighting in the Russian-occupied regions had already claimed over 13,000 Ukrainian lives, including thousands of innocent civilians. That is even before the current invasion.

Another casualty of Russian aggression in Ukraine has been the attack on religious freedom. Russian occupation authorities in Crimea continue to persecute and intimidate the minority Christian, Muslim, and other religious groups, like the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Putin's puppets in Crimea during the duration of their occupation subjected them to kidnappings, torture, forced psychiatric examinations, and imprisonment. Muslim Crimean Tatars have been sentenced to serve lengthy terms in Russian prisons on the entirely baseless charge of terrorism.

Minority religious groups in the area of eastern Ukraine controlled by pro-Putin proxies have also been forced to flee in order to escape the oppressive conditions. The religious persecution in Ukraine being committed at the

hands of the Putin authorities is self-destructive and must be stopped.

Throughout American history, the United States has worked tirelessly to advance religious freedom and protect religious minorities around the globe. The bill follows that strong tradition by accomplishing the following:

One, making clear that it is the policy of the United States to never recognize the illegal attempted annexation of Crimea by Russia or the separation through the use of military force or recognition of independence of any portion of Ukrainian territory;

Second, it helps ensure that war criminal Putin and his cronies are held accountable by considering any official involved in carrying out severe violations of human rights in sovereign Ukrainian territory by applying the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Three, additionally, this legislation requires a determination of whether to designate Russia as a country of concern for religious freedom.

We cannot allow these grave violations to continue. It is vital that the United States continues to be a leader in advancing international religious freedom around the world.

This bill not only brings international attention to the religious persecution being committed in the territory of Ukraine that Putin illegally occupies or controls through illegal armed groups it commands, but also ensures that war criminal Putin and his thugs are held accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that the United States continue its tradition of advancing religious freedom and human rights around the world.

This bill brings accountability to the Putin regime for its crimes of oppressing religious minorities as it illegally occupies sovereign Ukrainian territory.

Additionally, it is so critical that the United States continue to send a clear message that it will never recognize Putin's illegal occupation of sovereign Ukrainian territory.

Mr. Speaker, as ranking member of the Helsinki Commission, I especially recognize our dear friend, the late Chairman Alcee Hastings for championing this issue and the Helsinki Commission for prioritizing human rights and holding war criminal Putin accountable for his continued violations of human rights and religious liberty in Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

I thank my friend and colleague from South Carolina. He is a gentleman and

a champion of religious freedoms around the world. This is an example of what this institution, and we Americans can do together when we find common ground and set our minds to it in the face of such aggression and risk around the world.

Putin's flagrant violations of the basic human rights of Ukrainian civilians on Ukraine's sovereign territory are disturbing, and they are unacceptable. Freedom of religion is a moral imperative that the United States must continue to strive to defend as we support the people of Ukraine through these incredibly trying and horrific times.

This is personal to me. My own family fled Russian persecution during the pogroms of the late 19th century to come to this extraordinary country. Little could they have imagined that I would be standing here with you, my friend from South Carolina, talking about religious freedoms and doing everything we can as a country to preserve and protect those all around the world. That is what it means to be an American, not just here, but all around the world.

We must take action where we can, including by ensuring that the President considers all regions where Russian influence is determining future development funding for the Nation. I trust my colleagues will join me in supporting this terribly important bill to defend these freedoms all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 496, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

ASSET SEIZURE FOR UKRAINE RECONSTRUCTION ACT

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6930) to authorize the confiscation of assets subject to United States jurisdiction of certain foreign persons, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6930

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Asset Seizure for Ukraine Reconstruction Act".